

# ΤΟΥ ΕΡΜΟΥ ΠΡΟΣ ΑΣΚΛΗΠΙΟΝ Η ΛΕΓΟΥΜΕΝΗ ΙΕΡΑ ΒΙΒΛΟΣ

THE SACRED BOOK OF HERMES TO ASCLEPIUS

*A Hermetic Astrological Text on the 36 Decans*

Translated by J. Pedro Feliciano from the French and Greek: Ruelle, C.-E., ed. 1908. Hermès Trismégiste: Le Livre Sacré sur les Décans. Pages 247–277 in *Revue de philologie, de littérature et d'histoire anciennes* 32.

**B**elow I have set forth for you the (governed) parts, and shapes of the 36 decans contained in the signs of the zodiac (*lit.* zodiacal animals), and I have indicated how each must be engraved and carried (as a talisman) between the ascendant, the Good Daimon, and the place concerning health (?). Indeed, if you carry them on your person you will have a great phylactery, for all the afflictions that plague mankind through the influence of the stars may be healed thereby. Hence, if you honour each one by using its (specific) stone and plant, and furthermore its image, you will possess an even greater phylactery; for without this decanal arrangement, nothing may be born, for all is contained therein.

Therefore the zodiacal circle is formed by various parts, limbs and harmonies, it proceeds from the kosmos, and is composed thus:

Aries is the head of the kosmos	Libra, the buttocks
Taurus is the neck	Scorpio, the genitals
Gemini, the shoulders	Sagittarius, the thighs
Cancer, the chest	Capricorn, the knees
Leo, the back, heart, and ribs	Aquarius, the legs
Virgo, the belly	Pisces, the feet

Thus, each zodiacal animal has its body part with which it has particular affinity; furthermore, if you wish to avoid suffering from afflictions derived from this affinity, engrave the images and figures of the decans on (their) stones, and then having placed them under the appropriate plant, and again the figure, and having made a phylactery from them, you will bear a great and most auspicious aid for your body. Let us begin with Aries



First decan of Aries. Its name is **KHENLAKHÔRI**, and its image is thus. It has the face of a young child with hands raised upward. He bears a sceptre, holding it above his head. He bears wrappings from his feet to his knees. He governs illnesses that afflict the head. Engrave his image on a porous Babylonian stone, place above it the plant called *isophrus* (?), place the whole in an iron ring, and wear it. Avoid eating boar's head, for thus you will gain the favour of each decan by engraving it on its stone with its name.

Second decan. Its name is **KONTARET** and **KAÛ**, and the following image. He has a dog's face; he holds a sceptre in his right hand and a disk in his left. He is covered in wrappings down to his ankles. He governs the temples, the nose, and all afflictions pertaining thereto. Engrave him on a siderite stone, placing under it a wild rue plant. Enclose the whole in a gold ring and wear it on your person. Avoid eating stork.

Third decan. Its name is **SIKET**, and is depicted as a woman with a drum on her head and a sceptre in her right hand, with a flask in her left. She is covered in wrappings down to her ankles. She rules over the ear, uvula and teeth. Engrave her image on a bostrychite stone, and place under it some plantain. Then enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it. Do not eat ram entrails.



First decan of Taurus. This one is called **SÔOU**, and looks like a man with the head of a ram. He wears a Syrian robe down to his feet, and holds in both hands sceptres which are resting on his shoulders. This decan governs the neck. Engrave him on a selenite stone which has been left in the sunlight to gain weight, and underneath it put a spherical cypress (*i.e. having spherical fruits*), then place the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person. Do not eat any *gryllon* fish (dolphin or porpoise).

Second decan. This one is called **ARÔN**, and looks like a woman holding sceptre with both hands, standing upright her feet together, covered with wrappings down to her feet like Osiris. She governs the tonsils and the neck. Engrave her on Aphrodite's stone, and having placed under it some dittany plant, enclose the whole within a gold or silver ring and wear it. Do not eat eel.

Third decan of Taurus. Called **HRÔMENÔS**. Its image is that of a dog-headed man with curls on his head. In his right hand he holds a sceptre and his left hand touches his buttocks. He wears a belt that falls at his knees. He rules the mouth and throat. Engrave him on a hyacinth stone and place a bugloss plant under it, enclosing the whole in a gold or silver ring and wear it on you. Avoid eating eel.

## II

First decan of Gemini. This one is called **XOKHÁ** and looks like a man with the head of a donkey. He holds a small key in his right hand, and his left is dropped. He is covered in wrappings down to his knees. He governs the shoulder. Engrave him on a diamond, place an orchid under it, enclose it in whatever you wish, and wear it on you. Abstain from eating electric rays.

Second decan of Gemini. It is called **OUARÍ**, and looks like a man with the head of a goat. He holds a stick (or staff) in his right hand, and his left hangs over his thigh. He is covered in wrappings down to the knees. He governs the arms. Engrave him on a *pankhrous* stone, place under it a pentadactyl plant (five fingered grass or cinquefoil), enclose it in whatever you wish and wear it on you while abstaining from parrotfish.

Third decan of Gemini. Called **PEPISÔTH**. It has the form of a woman holding thunder(bolts) in her right hand and a flask in her left. She has wings which go from the middle of her body to her feet and has a crown on her head. She governs the hands. Engrave her on a heliotrope stone and, having placed under it a libanotis plant (from the Apiaceae family), enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on you while abstaining from boar meat.

## ☿

First decan of Cancer. It is called **SÔTHEÍR**, and looks like a man with the head of a dog; his whole body has a spiral shape like that of a serpent. He is seated on a pedestal. He governs illnesses that manifest in the sides of the trunk. Engrave him on a dryite stone, place some artemisia plant under it, and wear it while abstaining from white sow stomach.

Second decan of Cancer. It is called **OUPHISIT**; it looks like a woman with an avian body, the wings outstretched as if she was about to take flight, and a tress on her head. She governs afflictions of the lung. Engrave her on green jasper, place a selenogone plant under it, enclose it in whatever you wish and wear it while avoiding any food that dogs may touch.

Third decan of Cancer. It is called **KHNOUPHOS**, and looks like two female faces turned away from each other. One wears a small hat, the other a diadem. Her neck is surrounded by dragons. Her whole torso is set on a pedestal. She governs the spleen. Engrave her image exactly as is on an *eukhaitê* stone (?), place a spherite plant under it, enclose it in whatever you wish and wear it on you. It is of great help.



First decan of Leo. It is called **KHNOUMOS** and has the head of a lion whence issue solar rays. His whole body is that of a spiralling serpent, going upwards. He rules over afflictions of the heart. Engrave him on an agate stone, place an edelweiss plant under it, enclose it in whatever you wish and wear it on you. Abstain from eating songbird eggs.

Second decan. This is called **IPI**, and looks like a naked man with a sceptre in his right hand, a whip in his left, and a lunar crescent (*selênên*) on his head. He governs the upper back. Engrave him on a selenite stone, place a chrysogone plant under it, enclose the whole in a gold ring and wear it while abstaining from beans.

Third decan of Leo. This is called **PHÁTITI**. It looks like a wild faced man with his right hand up in a greeting position. He holds a flask in his left. He governs the liver. Engrave him on a helite stone and under it place the plant (*name missing*). Enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it. Abstain from eating tuna.



First decan of Virgo. It is called **ATHOUM**, Its face is that of a dog with a crest on his head. His body is hot (?) and fiery in colour. He stands on a pedestal, and governs the belly. Engrave him on a corallite stone (*possibly coral*), place under it the plant called weasel eye, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it. Abstain from eating white sow liver.

Second decan. It is called **BRUSOUS**, and looks like a man with a horned goat's head, dressed down to his heels, bearing a sceptre in his right hand and a flask in his left. He governs illnesses of the bowels. Engrave him on a dendrite stone, place some liquorice under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear this most fortunate aid on your person. Abstain from eating stork meat.

Third decan of Virgo. It is called **AMPHATHÁM**, and looks like an upright man, covered chest to feet in wrappings, bearing a sceptre with both hands, and having a small hat on his head. He governs the navel. Engrave him on an *euthlizouti* stone, place some *katanankê* plant under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person.



First decan of Libra. Called **SPHOUKOU**. He looks like an old man with a belt, his left hand raised as if to receive something, the right hand hanging down. He holds a flask. He governs the buttocks and rectum. Engrave him on a jasper-agate, place a polium plant under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person. Abstain from duck and bitter almonds.

Second decan. It is called **NEPHTHIMÊS**. He looks like a man standing on a fountain whence issue forth streams which unite into one. He is covered from his chest to his ankles in wrappings. He has a curl in his beard and holds a flask. He governs the urethra, bladder, and the urinary tract. Engrave him on a sardonyx stone (red onyx), place vervain under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person. Abstain from blackberries.

Third decan of Libra. Called **PHOU**. He has the face of a serpent with a man's body. He bears a crown on his head and stands upright wrapped in a trouser. He governs illnesses that afflict the anus, like haemorrhoids, calluses and fissures. Engrave him on an emerald, place vervain under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person. Abstain from wild celery.



First decan of Scorpio. Called **BÔS**. He looks like a man with the head of a bull, and having 4 wings. He has a belt, holds a flask in his right hand and a sceptre in his left. He relieves pains that afflict the penile orifice, (as well) as inflammatory oedemas. Engrave him on hematite, place mercurial plant under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person.

Second decan of Scorpio. Called **OUSTIKHOS**. He looks like a man standing in a robe atop a scorpion. He rules over warts and infections of the genitals. Engrave him on pyrite, place sunflower under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person.

Third decan. Called **APHÊBIS**. He has the body of a man with the head of a goat. He holds reins with both hands, and is covered in wrappings from chest to heels. He governs the testicles and heals inflammation in the area, whether in one or both. Engrave him on Egyptian sardonyx, place liquorice under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person, abstaining from orchids.



First decan of Sagittarius. Called **SEBOS**. He looks like a clothed man, his left hand open and lowered, bearing a needle in his right. Next to him are several spears. He is covered in a net from chest to heels, and his head is wrapped. He governs sores that afflict the thighs. Engrave him on a Phrygian stone, place sage under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person.

Second decan of Sagittarius. Called **TEUKHMOS**. He has the head of an ichneumon bird, and a man's body. He holds a flask in his right hand and a sceptre in his left. He governs the bones and sends the fractures that afflict them. Engrave him on an amethyst, place *adraktitalos* plant under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person. Abstain from eating turtledoves.

Third decan. Called **KHTHISAR**. His form is that of an old man with a crown on his head, covered in wrappings from chest to heels, holding a flask in his right hand and a sceptre in his left. He governs the thighs, and sends pain and corrosion thereto. Engrave him on an *aerizon* stone, place centaury under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person. Abstain from eating chicken brains



First decan of Capricorn. It is called **TAIR**. He is headless with a man's body. Around his chest is a girdle made from scarab shell. In his right hand he has a flask and his left is extended on his thigh. He governs the knees and the illnesses that affect them. Engrave him on an ophite stone, place *delphinion* plant under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person. Abstain from eating eel.

Second decan of Capricorn. Called **EPITEK**. He has the head of a pig, and his body is similar to that of the first (decan). He has a belt; a flask in his right hand and a sword in his left. He rules the back of the knees. Engrave him on a *karkhedonios* (probably chalcedony) stone, place anemone under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person. Abstain from eating moray eel

Third decan of Capricorn. Called **EPIKHNAUS**. He wears a mask, a flask in his right hand and a needle in his left. He wears a belt. He governs the same areas as previously indicated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> decan. Engrave him on an anankite stone, place chameleon (thistle) under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person. Abstain from eating crayfish,



First decan of Aquarius. He is called **ISU**, and according to some, **THRÔ**. He is a dog-headed man, covered in wrappings from the chest to heels. He rules over tibias and sends all abscesses and lesions that take place therein. Engrave him on *knêkitê* stone, place *asar* plant under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person.

Second decan of Aquarius. Called **SOSOMNÔ**. He looks like a man covered in wrappings from chest to heels. He bears an *agkhia* (possibly an Egyptian Ankh) in his hands, and wears a crown. He governs the knees and leg fat. Engrave him on a lodestone, place gladiolus plant under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person.

Third decan of Aquarius. Called **KHONOU MOUS**. He looks like a man covered in wrappings from chest to heels. He wears a crown, and holds a flask in his right hand and a sceptre in his left. He governs the abovesaid (body parts). Engrave him on Median stone, place thyrsion plant (catananche) under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person.



First decan of Pisces. Called **TETIMÔ**. He looks like a man dressed in a dark blue robe. He's covered in wrappings from chest to heels. In his right hand he holds a flask, while the left hangs beside his thigh. He rules the feet and sends them abscesses. Engrave him on beryl, place vervain under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person.

Second decan of Pisces. Called **SOPPHI**. He looks like a man, naked, but bearing a coat on his shoulders, thrown behind him. He holds a flask in the right hand, his left index finger to his mouth, and a crown on his head. Engrave him on *perileukios* stone, place libanotis plant under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person.

Third decan of Pisces. Called **SURÔ**. He is invisible. He is called the coiling dragon. He has a beard and a crown on his head. Engrave him on hyacinth stone, place chamomile under it, enclose the whole in whatever you wish and wear it on your person.